

Commission clears Haddad of killing

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli judicial commission investigating the Beirut massacre of Palestinians Sunday cleared right-wing Lebanese militia leader Saad Haddad and his men of any involvement in the killings. Major Haddad's militia is armed and financed by Israel and operates in South Lebanon. Some foreign press reports published after the September massacre said his men had taken part. The commission said in a statement published Sunday night that it had not heard any evidence that Maj. Haddad's forces had been among the killers. It was replying to a letter from Maj. Haddad requesting the opportunity to present new evidence to the inquiry. He also asked to see testimony presented by other witnesses and to cross-examine them.

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New Zealand may buy crude oil from Egypt

CAIRO (R) — New Zealand's minister of foreign affairs and overseas trade, Warren Cooper, is in talks with President Hosni Mubarak Sunday that his country may be interested in buying Egyptian crude oil. Mr. Cooper told reporters his one-hour meeting with the Egyptian leader dealt with promoting trade relations between their countries. The New Zealand minister said he told Mr. Mubarak and Egyptian officials that "if trade developed, New Zealand would be interested in the purchase of Egyptian crude oil." Egypt's Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, who was at the meeting, said Mr. Cooper extended an invitation for Mr. Mubarak to visit New Zealand.

Falkland veterans disrupt Argentinian military ceremony

BUENOS AIRES (R) — About 300 former Argentine conscripts who fought in the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands campaign disrupted a military ceremony Saturday near Buenos Aires in protest against treatment by officers during the conflict. The protesters were among 2,500 ex-combatants of the 10th Infantry Brigade at the memorial ceremony in La Plata, which was presided over by the head of the Buenos Aires-based First Army Command, Gen. Juan Carlos Trinomarco. Press reports Sunday of the incident said the protesters laid down and banged their fists on the ground, shouting abuse and whistling whenever a speaker mentioned a military institution. They also shouted slogans against Argentina's military government, including "military dictatorship is going to end." At one point, the reports said, an enraged officer drew his gun on one protestor, but did not fire. The demonstrators heaped insults on the officer until he was led away by colleagues.

Jobert, Yamani hold talks

BAHRAIN (R) — French Foreign Trade Minister Michel Jobert has talks with Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani in Riyadh Sunday. The official Saudi Press Agency reported. The agency gave no details of their discussions. But a French Foreign Trade Ministry spokesman said in Paris before the minister left that the talks would centre on renegotiation of an eight-year-old oil contract expiring this month. Under the agreement, France has been importing 12 million tonnes of Saudi crude oil a year. Industry sources in Paris said a new accord was likely to halve that to six million tonnes a year.

Vietnam denies using chemical weapons

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam Sunday denounced as "worn-out slander" United States charges that chemical warfare was being used against anti-Communists in Laos, Kampuchea and Afghanistan. The Vietnam News Agency (VNA) reported. An article in the official Communist Party daily Nhan Dan rejected a U.S. State Department report, which was issued this week and said the U.S. had proof Soviet troops were using mycotoxins in Afghanistan. The State Department report also said Vietnamese and Lao troops, under direct Soviet supervision, had used "lethal and incapacitating" chemical agents and toxins against resistance forces.

Iran condemns U.S. military exercises in Oman

LONDON (R) — An Iranian official has condemned U.S. military exercises that began in the Gulf state of Oman this weekend. Tehran Radio reported Sunday. The radio, monitored in London, quoted an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the U.S. manoeuvres in Oman "reveal America's evil intention to embark on direct military intervention in the region."

China says world waiting for move by U.S., Israel Hussein, Arab delegation to start Peking talks today

PEKING (Agencies) — Arab League seven-member delegation led by His Majesty King Hussein is due to hold talks with Chinese leaders here Monday on Middle East issues. The delegation which arrived in the Chinese capital on Sunday will outline in particular an Arab peace plan adopted by the Fez Arab summit in September.

He ruled out any compromise on the plan saying "the Arab World is committed to it and would continue to stand by it."

King Hussein said "in the next few days when the picture of the Fez proposals are clear, the Arab leaders will have a chance to meet and decide on the next step."

King Hussein who had met with President Zia-Ul-Haq to discuss the Middle East issue took the opportunity to laud Pakistan for its firm stand and support for just Arab causes. "Pakistan and the Arabs have always been partners, brothers, and friends and will remain so forever," the King said.

Meanwhile, the Chinese press Sunday welcomed the Arab League's delegation and said the world was now watching for a move by Israel and the United States.

A commentary in the Official New China News Agency said China was receiving with open

arms a seven-member Arab League delegation led by King Hussein which arrived in Peking Sunday on its tour of U.N. Security Council permanent members.

The agency monitored in Hong Kong said the peace plan drawn up at the league's summit meeting in Morocco last September constituted "the basis for a fair and comprehensive settlement to the Middle East problem".

The whole question is now left to the behaviour of Israel and its patron on whom the eyes of the public are fixed," it said.

"The root cause of the protracted Middle East trouble and unrest has been the unbridled external expansion and aggression of Israel under U.S. aegis."

It said that although there seemed to have been some change in the U.S. stance on the Middle East in recent months, the Reagan administration still refused to admit that "Israel has committed flagrant acts of aggression abroad".

The U.S. also refused to recognise the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, it added.

The agency also said it was regrettable that the delegation had been unable to visit Britain because of London's refusal to receive the Palestine Liberation Organisation's representative among its members.

Israel fears Shultz adopting tougher policy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Arguments over American aid have fuelled Israeli fears that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was adopting a tougher policy towards Israel.

Briefing reporters Sunday after a cabinet meeting, a senior Israeli official said the aid row was the latest signal that Mr. Shultz was taking a harder line than his predecessor, Alexander Haig.

Israeli leaders have accused

Washington of breaking a pledge never to use aid as a political lever.

Last week, the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee voted to increase aid to Israel, despite heavy opposition from the White House and the State Department.

The Reagan administration said it feared the increase might jeopardise Middle East peace efforts by appearing to endorse and reward Israel's policies.

Israeli Cabinet Secretary Dan

Meridor told reporters that ministers did not hold a full discussion on the issue Sunday, but he spoke of them being "a bit astonished" that Washington had used political arguments against increasing aid.

"The Americans have said many times that the political position of Israel will not be connected with aid... this is the first time they have done this," Mr. Meridor added.

The judicial sources said Mr. Ayvazov keeps his diplomatic privileges as he had not officially left Italy, even though he is out of the country.

Turkish citizen Mehmet Ali Agca, serving a life sentence here for shooting the Pope, identified the suspected Bulgarians in talks with Judge Martella.

Relations between Italy and Bulgaria have been increasingly strained since Mr. Antonov's arrest. Bulgarian embassy officials have described the charges as totally unfounded.

Last week Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Luben Gotzev met the Italian ambassador and mentioned the case of Mr. Antonov and that of two Italians held in Bulgaria on spying charges.

Rome seeks 3rd Bulgarian

ROME (R) — A Rome magistrate investigating the attack on Pope John Paul has asked the Foreign Ministry to withdraw the diplomatic status of a third Bulgarian suspect of involvement in the shooting, judicial sources said Sunday.

The diplomatic privileges of Teodorov Ayvazov, a cashier at the Bulgarian embassy who left Italy a month ago, prevent judge Ilario Martella from issuing a warrant for his arrest.

An embassy spokesman said he had not heard of the request. He said Mr. Ayvazov was not a member of the diplomatic corps but had certain diplomatic privileges as an embassy employee.

No Foreign Ministry officials were available to comment on Judge Martella's request.

Bulgarian Airline official Serguei Antonov was arrested last month for suspected complicity in the attack on the Pope in St. Peter's Square in May last year.

China hails constitution

PEKING (R) — China, hailing its new constitution as an historical landmark, Sunday called on its billion people to use it as a weapon to fight for stability and prosperity.

Official Chinese newspapers said the ratification of the constitution Saturday by China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), was a milestone in the history of the country's legal system.

The People's Daily said it "provides an indispensable legal guarantee for the nation's stability" and termed it "a guarantee for the modernisation programme to build China into a highly civilised, highly democratic Socialist country."

The constitution, marking a return to the rule of law abandoned in the 1966-76 revolution, extends the list of civil rights and duties in the previous 1978 charter.

Libya recruits Chad nationals to fight against Habre government

NAIROBI (R) — Libya is recruiting thousands of Chad nationals to fight in a rebel army against the new Chad government of Hissene Habre, according to diplomatic sources.

The sources said that up to 10,000 Chadians living in Libya may have already been recruited for military training since President Habre's troops captured N'Djamena and routed the previous government of Goukouni Oueddei in June.

The recruits are being taken to training camps either in southern Libya or near Bardai, northern Chad, where Mr. Goukouni set up a rival government in October, said the sources, contacted in Tripoli and other capitals.

The sources said it appeared that Mr. Goukouni was preparing a fresh drive into Chad with the backing of Libya, which last month pledged him continued support.

But it appeared unlikely that

Libya would itself intervene again directly in Chad because of heavy losses Libyan troops sustained in 1980 and 1981 when they fought alongside Mr. Habre's rebels, the sources said.

According to West African military intelligence reports made available to Reuters, Libyan losses were in excess of 1,000 men, a tenth of the force sent into Chad.

Mr. Goukouni asked Libya, his main ally, for reinforcements in December, 1980, to drive Mr. Habre's Armed Forces of the North (FAN) rebels from the country.

But in November the following year he asked them to leave after chasing FAN forces to the Sudanese border, apparently fearing that they might become a permanent presence in the Central African state.

The diplomatic sources said the Chad nationals, many of whom must have fought for one faction

or another in Chad's 17 years of civil strife, were recruited in the southern cities of Sebha and Beni-

ghazi for training by the Goukouni army, which is thought to number at most 2,000.

Libya's Col. Muammar Qadhafi underlined his commitment to Mr. Goukouni at last month's aborted Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Tripoli, which collapsed when Libya and its allies demanded that the Chad seat remain vacant.

In a bitter speech complaining that insufficient states had come to Tripoli to make up the required 34-nation quorum because of the Chad dispute, the Libyan leader dared President Habre's troops to set foot in the Tibesti region of northern Chad.

He said that his government had always supported Mr. Goukouni and would never abandon him.

Mr. Goukouni was in Tripoli at the time and was given a state dinner by the Libyan authorities.

The collapse of the summit robbed Col. Qadhafi of the OAU chairmanship he was due to take over from Kenya. But the Libyan leader will be free to pursue Libyan interests in Chad without the OAU post, Western diplomats said at the time.

With two pro-Western governments in Egypt and Sudan as its eastern neighbours, Col. Qadhafi is anxious to stop a third being formed in Chad, on his southern frontier, they said.

Egypt and Sudan both backed Mr. Habre's rebels and are two of Col. Qadhafi's most implacable foes.

The diplomatic sources said, however, there was no evidence to back charges by Chad Vice-President Idriss Miskine last month of a Libyan military build-up in northern Chad.

A fresh military incursion in Chad would be highly unpopular with the Libyan army, whose sup-

port is essential for Col. Qadhafi. It would also be extremely expensive. The 1980/81 campaign is thought to have cost Libya between two and five billion dollars, they said, a price Libya would be reluctant to bear again because of a squeeze on Libyan revenues caused by the world oil glut.

Libya acknowledges that it has troops in the disputed northern Aouzou strip over which it claims sovereignty and has occupied since 1973.

Bardai, site of Mr. Goukouni's rival Chad government, lies south of the Aouzou strip and could easily be supplied by Libyans in the disputed area, the sources said.

Theoretically it was also possible that Libyan troops could themselves train the Chadian recruits in the Aouzou region before sending them to Bardai to join the Goukouni army, they said.

Sectarian clashes erupt in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Christian and Druze militiamen clashed again Sunday in the mountains southeast of Beirut, state-run Beirut Radio reported. It said Sunday's fighting, the latest in a series of sectarian clashes in the area in recent weeks, was between the Druze village of Ajiat and the predominantly Christian village of Souk Al-Gharb. Security sources said there were casualties but they had no details. The fighting between the traditionally feuding communities started when the Israeli army invaded the mountains in June and allowed rightist Christian militiamen to move into areas that had for years been under the control of Druze militia. Tension intensified after Druze leader Walid Jumblatt was nearly killed by a car bomb in Beirut last Wednesday.

Cold weather hits Jordan

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Rain, high winds and sand storms hit Jordan Sunday, making visibility on most roads poor and travel risky.

Meteorological department officials said that Jordan has been affected by an atmospheric depression, accompanied by high winds reaching nearly 55 kilometres per hour.

Temperature dropped to its lowest point in years on Sunday evening, with snow falling on highlands particularly in Zai and Ajloun mountains, the department said.

Al Ra'i newspaper correspondent in Ma'an reported that the governorate was swept by heavy rain accompanied by high wind.

Ma'an governor Turki Al Hidai said that light snow fell in the areas of Shobak, Ras Al Naqab and Eel.

He added however, that all roads in the governorate were still passable.

The Public Security Department called on drivers in the southern region of the country to take precautions in view of the prevailing bad weather conditions.

Several sectors of the Desert Highway and roads branching from it to link Ras Al Naqab, Al Husseinieh and Al Rashidieh were impassable, the department said.

Cabinet approves budget draft

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday held a regular session under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mudar Badran to continue reviewing various sections of the 1983 fiscal budget.

Following the four-hour meeting the cabinet declared its approval of the budget draft and referred it to the National Consultative Council for ratification.

Soviet attaché leaves Britain 3 days before deadline

LONDON (R) — A Soviet naval attaché, ordered out of Britain as a spy, left London for Moscow Sunday saying the allegations against him were lies.

Official British sources said Captain Anatoli Zotov had tried to set up a spy ring here.

He told reporters at Heathrow Airport shortly before leaving: "What has been alleged against me is without foundation and all lies. It is a complete invention."

The captain left three days before the British deadline for his departure expired. He was formally accused of "activities incompatible with his official status" and given until Wednesday to pack his bags.

He arrived at the airport in an embassy car to take a scheduled flight of the Soviet Airline Aeroflot.

Captain Zotov, wearing his naval uniform with gold-braided cap and medal ribbons, said: "I am proud and honoured to say, as a sailor of the Russian navy, I was glad to represent the Soviet navy. I can only repeat that he was sent against me is fiction."

Asked if he was a spy and if he had organised a spy network, he refused to answer. He added only that his wife Nina had already returned to Moscow.

Captain Zotov was the third suspected Soviet spy expelled from Britain in the last 18 months. Official sources said he had been trying to recruit agents to obtain classified information but was caught before he had harmed British interests.

One of 46 officials of diplomatic rank at the Soviet embassy, he had arrived in Britain in January last year.

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HOME NEWS

NCC delegation visits Iran-Iraq battlefield

MANDALI (Petra) — A delegation from the National Consultative Council (NCC) led by its Speaker Suleiman Arar Sunday visited the battlefield in Mandali region in eastern Iraq.

The delegation members were briefed by the commander of the second Iraqi Army Division on the fighting and developments in the Mandali front facing the Iranian forces.

The Iraqi forces will never allow the Iranian invaders to achieve their expansionist dreams at the expense of the Arab Nation," he said.

He also paid tribute to the Jordanian stand in support of Iraq and Jordan's assistance to the country in its war with Iran.

In reply, Mr. Arar said that the

"Iraqi forces have achieved big successes which are a source of pride for the Arab Nation." He also reiterated Jordan's "total support for Iraq in its just struggle to defend Arab territory."

Later, Mr. Arar and his delegation visited the Jordanian all-volunteer Yarmouk Force which has been fighting alongside Iraqi forces against Iran and visited the town of Mandali which is situated on the boundary with Iran.

Meanwhile, in Baghdad, the Iraqi People's Council Sunday lauded the national stands of His

Majesty King Hussein, government and people.

At a meeting held with the NCC delegation, Iraqi People's Council Speaker Na'im Haddad voiced Iraq's appreciation of Jordan's support for Iraq and asked that the Iraqi people's gratitude be conveyed to King Hussein and the Jordanian government and people.

In a speech to the council, Mr. Arar said in supporting Iraq, Jordan is "performing a national duty towards other Arab states as the Iraqis did when they extended help to Jordan, Palestine and Syria during Israel's acts of aggression."

During the hour-long meeting both sides reviewed cooperation between Jordan and Iraq and the latest developments in the war.

Intensified talks strengthen Jordanian-Palestinian ties

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the light of the latest developments in the Middle East and the peace plans outlined by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the Fez Arab summit, the Jordanian capital last week witnessed one of the most significant events embodied in Palestinian-Jordanian relations reflected in the formation of a new joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee.

Last week's talks between Jordanian and Palestinian leaders focused on the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the different peace proposals for the Middle East and the tasks of the seven-member Arab League committee formed at Fez, Morocco, last September.

These issues and other important subjects were the topics of an exclusive interview by the Jordan Times Thursday with Yasser Abd Rabbo, the head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Information Department and member of the PLO Executive Committee.

"The resolutions of the Palestine National Council stressed the significance and uniqueness of Palestinian-Jordanian relations and the importance of developing these relations in order to coordinate efforts for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," Mr. Abd Rabbo told the Jordan Times.

Future relations

Concerning future Jordanian-Palestinian relations Mr. Abd Rabbo pointed out that the PLO welcomes a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

"The suggested confederation is in accordance with international law definitions of a confederation which implies strong and coordinated relations in all spheres to achieve common goals, but the two countries maintain their independence and are represented separately at the United Nations," Mr. Abd Rabbo said.

Mr. Abd Rabbo, who is also a member of the newly formed Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee asserted that "the

committee aims at the formulation of a joint work plan based on the Fez Arab summit resolutions."

The Fez summit resolutions called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO.

"We work within the framework of the Fez summit resolutions which recognise the inalienable rights of the Palestinians unlike the Reagan peace proposals. The Palestine Central Council has declared the American initiative inadequate as a basis for a just and durable peace in the area," Mr. Abd Rabbo said.

He stressed that the PLO regards the seven-member Arab League committee "as the best formula for a peace negotiating team."

U.S. plan rejected

The Reagan plan, announced Sept. 1, called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab territories and for a freeze in the building of Israeli settlements, but it left out the PLO.

"The explanatory memorandum of the plan sent to Arab governments clearly says that the PLO should not be a partner in peace negotiations," Mr. Abd Rabbo added.

The Palestinian official cast doubts over the credibility of the U.S. to implement its plan saying, "We have the longest experience with the United States and we are not deceived by its verbal declarations if it is not accompanied by practical measures."

Concerning the possibility of a future Palestinian-American dialogue, Mr. Abd Rabbo pointed out that the PLO rejects the conditions laid down by the U.S.

"The U.S. asks us to recognise the legitimacy of Israel as a precondition to hold talks with the U.S. We find that totally unacceptable."

"It is the Palestinians who are deprived of their legitimate rights and their homeland and not Israel. Moreover, both the U.S. and Israel deny the rights of our people and that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinians," Mr. Abd Rabbo said.

Role in Arab team

Referring to the U.S. refusal last month to receive Khaled Al Hassan, the PLO representative in

the seven-member Arab League team, Mr. Abd Rabbo said that the U.S. had suggested through "an Arab third party" that a Palestinian member, who is not a member of the PLO, replace the organisation's representative in the committee. The PLO refused the suggestion.

"Our acceptance would imply our submission to U.S. claims that the PLO does not represent the Palestinian people," Mr. Abd Rabbo said.

He stressed that the PLO regards the seven-member Arab League committee "as the best formula for a peace negotiating team."

PLO and Israeli groups

As for the PLO's relations with Israeli groups opposed to the policies of Prime Minister Menachem Begin's government, Mr. Abd Rabbo indicated the PLO is ready to talk to Israeli groups who recognise the PLO and the rights of the Palestinian people. He also confirmed that a meeting took place between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Meir Filner, the Israeli Communist Party leader in Moscow last month.

Mr. Abd Rabbo denied, however, reports that indicated that Mr. Arafat declared his readiness to hold talks with the Israeli Labour Party.

"We do not distinguish between the Israeli Likud and Labour parties in regard to their position on our people's rights," Mr. Abd Rabbo said.

Arrests in Lebanon

Mr. Abd Rabbo deplored the mass arrests of Palestinians by the Lebanese government.

Reports from Lebanon say that many Palestinians are detained by the Lebanese authorities. They also indicate that the Palestinian institutions are intimidated by the Lebanese army.

"Despite the guarantees and pledges given by the Lebanese government regarding the rights of Palestinians in Lebanon, some government circles are violating these guarantees by harassing the Palestinians in Lebanon. Last week the Lebanese army expropriated all the available medicine from Gaza Hospital in west Beirut and arrested several doctors and nurses. The PLO has conveyed to the Lebanese government its condemnation of such measures and that the PLO possesses proper political means to stop such practices," Mr. Abd Rabbo said.

Role in Arab team

Referring to the U.S. refusal last month to receive Khaled Al Hassan, the PLO representative in

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Greenery -- conspicuous by its absence

It is only when you are flying over Amman that you notice how much we lack green spaces. Though the houses are lovely the use of stone makes the general appearance even colder. Why don't we beautify our capital by individually participating in a nationwide scheme? This would not require much effort, it would only take each person to plant in his garden trees, real trees and not just plants and green lawns. Now that water is no longer a problem in Amman, we have no more excuse to give.

We are in fact lucky to be living in a country where the climate is mild and where planting trees does not pose a Herculean task.

I remember the feeling of esteem and respect I had during one of my visits to the Gulf when I saw trees planted in the capital, especially considering that to plant and maintain trees in such countries requires a lot of money and efforts. One cannot refrain from admiring such an initiative.

We have the privilege of being able to beautify our city without spending large amounts of money. It is an effort that each and every one of us should make in his own surroundings.

Let the person who has a garden already transform it into a real paradise for the enjoyment of all and let the person who lives in an apartment plant on his balcony flower beds for the happiness of all. Believe me, the end result would be worth it.

Cooperative team returns after 7-day Cyprus visit

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) returned to Amman Saturday at the end of a week-long visit to Cyprus.

During the visit the delegation members acquainted themselves with the activities of the cooperative movement in Cyprus which supervises the work of 40 per cent of the country's agricultural sector, the delegation head Ayoub Batush said upon returning here.

The delegation members also looked into Cyprus' experience in financing projects, especially in villages and rural regions as well as the country's cooperative bank. Mr. Batush was accompanied by eight JCO members.

New Jordan Valley factory ships 1st consignment of tomato paste

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — The first shipment of tomato paste produced by a newly-established tomato-paste factory in the Jordan Valley has now been shipped to Iraq, according to Ali Shabat, one of the factory's engineers.

Mr. Shabat said that the factory which started production in June can produce 700 tonnes of paste a day.

The JD 1.5 million factory is designed to promote the work of Jordan Valley farmers by purchasing their tomato surpluses and turning them into paste, he said.

Mr. Shabat said that a similar factory, now being constructed at Ghor Al Safi, south of the Dead Sea, will have a daily production capacity of 300 tonnes.

The two factories have been constructed by the Jordan Valley Authority which had concluded contracts with Iraqi importers to sell them a total of 2,500 tonnes of tomato paste.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Solar energy conference continues

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day conference on the use of solar energy for agricultural purposes which opened here Saturday reviewed two working papers at its meeting here Sunday. The first, on the use of irrigation pumps operated by solar power, was submitted by a specialist from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the second, on the use of solar energy in agriculture, was submitted by a Swiss specialist. The delegates were also taken on a tour of several agricultural projects in the Jordan Valley Sunday.

Directors review VTC activities

AMMAN (Petra) — The Labour Ministry's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) board of directors reviewed at a meeting here Sunday a report on VTC activities submitted by VTC Director Munzer Al Masri to a seminar on recruiting teachers for technical and vocational schools which was held in Damascus recently. The board meeting, held under the chairmanship of Labour Minister Jawad Al Anani also approved a working paper on hotel training which provides for the VTC to supervise the training of hotel personnel.

Qattan opens work on Aqaba centre

AQABA (Petra) — Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Ibrahim Al Qattan Sunday laid the cornerstone for a shopping centre in Aqaba which is financed by the Aqaba Islamic Charitable Society. The project is expected to cost JD 575,000. In a speech on the occasion the society's president outlined the various projects which the society will be implementing in the city, which mainly include mosques, schools and kindergartens. Attending the ceremony was a visiting Islamic delegation from the Soviet Union whose leader made a speech on the occasion.

University plans technology meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day seminar on plastic technology and its applications and use is due to open at Yarmouk University Liaison Office here Saturday. Representatives from various countries in Western Asia and employed in plastic industries and petrochemicals will take part in the seminar which is organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA). The participants will exchange information on modern application of plastics in agriculture and building industries.

Karak to take charge of its water supply

KARAK (Petra) — As of the beginning of 1983 municipal and village councils in Karak Governorate will take charge of water distribution in their regions. A Water Supply Corporation (WSC) spokesman said here Saturday. He said that the WSC has already started installing water meters for 52 main pipes of town and village boundaries in Karak Governorate. However, he said, the WSC will continue to be responsible for the distribution of water to regions which still lack village councils.

Jordanian-Iraqi industries planned

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan and Iraq have agreed to conduct feasibility studies for the establishment of joint industrial projects that would manufacture components for a number of industrial firms in Jordan and Iraq under the Amman Chamber of Industry led by its President Bader Tabbaa.

Mr. Dajani said the agreement was reached during a current visit to Baghdad by a delegation representing the Amman Chamber of Industry led by its President Bader Tabbaa.

Mr. Dajani, who is currently on a visit to Baghdad to take part in a seminar on a strategy for developing the Arab World's human resources, said that agreement was also reached on the need for expanding Jordanian-Iraqi trade exchange. Visits by officials from both countries will be necessary for studying the possibility of increasing the trade between the two sides, Mr. Dajani said.

NCC committee studies Ghor agriculture projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Consultative Council's (NCC) Agricultural Committee Sunday held a meeting chaired by Marwan Al Hmoud and discussed agricultural policy in the Ghor area and agricultural activities there.

The decisions reached in Sunday's meeting will be presented to the NCC's next session.

On the other hand the NCC will not meet on Monday due to the absence of its Speaker Suleiman Arar, who is on visit to Iraq heading an NCC delegation.

Mohammed Abu Tayeb appointed Youth Welfare Corporation chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — A royal decree was issued Sunday appointing Mohammed Jamil Abu Tayeb as the Youth Welfare Corporation's director general.

Mr. Tayeb, who resumed the new post on Dec. 1, met Sunday with presidents and treasurers of all sports federations. The meeting aimed at discussing future plans and the corporation's achievements in the last two years.

The newly-appointed director was working as the education minister's consultant for social activities affairs.

Seminar to study female employment

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A seminar on "Training and Job Opportunities for Women in Jordan" will open Tuesday at the Chamber of Industry.

ager of this study and director of the banking association in Jordan. The study is based on two parts: Students sample survey and employer sample survey.

The first part will deal with issues related to vocational apprenticeship and interest in joining the VTC's programmes. It will also discuss students' preferences in trades and place of work.

Issues related to attitudes towards female employment will also be part of the seminar's discussions. It will include attitude of students towards women who work outside home, intention to work as well as attitudes of parents towards students' work outside home.

Her Majesty Queen Noor also will attend the seminar, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra said.

A survey on "Training and Job Opportunities for Women in Jordan" has been conducted by Dr. Abdulla Al Malki, project manager.

Part two of Dr. Al Malki's study discusses female employees on the participants.

Indian delegation to discuss trade relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing producers of tea, coffee, cardamoms and spices in India is due here Tuesday for a visit expected to last several days.

Amman Chamber of Commerce Director Rajeh Al Amin said that the delegation will be meeting with Jordanian business men.

Chamber Director Amin briefed the delegation members on free zones in

FEATURES

By Michael Littlejohns
Rewer

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations set aside its usual weighty diet of world problems this week to debate a point of history that raised unusual passions — did Christopher Columbus really discover America?

The question arose when Spain moved a resolution that the United Nations observe 1992 as "the year of the fifth centennial of the discovery of America." Columbus, an Italian, made his epic journey in the service of Queen Isabella of Castile in 1492.

And surely the Congress of the United States had acknowledged as a fact of history that Leifur Eiriksson, an Icelander of Norwegian descent, made the crossing in the year 1000. Hordur Helgason, the delegate of Iceland, chipped in.

After a heated discussion, the General Assembly agreed to put off a decision till Monday.

Ireland and Iceland were chagrined that the resolution made no mention of those Irish monks and Capt. Eiriksson.

Diplomatic sources said some African delegates were prepared to express their indignation over the entire enterprise by voting only for Columbus.

The commemorative resolution was co-sponsored by Italy and Portugal as well as most of the nat-

But, asked Ireland's Ambassador Noel Dorr, did not Saint Brendan and his Irish monks sail across the Atlantic in the seventh century?

Meanwhile, African member states questioned the property of the U.N. in commemorating an event that was followed by the shipment of hundreds of thousands of black slaves to the new world and the murder of a large part of the native population of the Americas.

During debate often punctuated by applause — unusual in the U.N. emotion ran high and Latin sensibilities were evidently bruised by the controversy over transatlantic primacy.

Delegates from the Americas ignored Saint Brendan and the Icelandic navigator, having words only for Columbus.

Miguel Alborozo of Ecuador termed the discovery of America — by Columbus — one of the most important events in history.

ions of the hemisphere — including, in rare amity, the United States and Cuba.

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Luis Moreno-Salcedo of the Philippines said Spain's heritage flowed to the new world and into Asia. Only the birth of Jesus was more important than Columbus's landing, he said.

Jaime de Pinies, the chief Spanish delegate, said the three ships under the Italian navigator's command that arrived in the Caribbean almost five centuries ago represented a collective feat, with Spain a principal party.

Italy's Umberto la Rocca spoke of the beginning of an age of scientific, economic and social progress.

Mr. Helgason of Iceland, introducing an especially sour note for the U.N. majority, remarked that the Spanish-led resolution seemed to applaud colonizing — anathema to the world body.

Eiriksson's voyage was so totally ignored, he said, that "we cannot give it our vote." If the assembly adopted the proposal,

members might expect a parallel one for the 1,000th anniversary of Eiriksson's trip 18 years from now, he added.

Mr. De Pinies expressed surprise that the debate had taken this turn. What was sought, he said, was a U.N. celebration of the arrival of Columbus in the new world — he who created churches and universities and brought Spanish culture to the Americas.

What Irish "remnants" were there? Members of the police department of the city of New York, and some leading American politicians, he said, noting the large complement of Irish-Americans among the police and

their influence in politics.

Mr. De Pinies objected to remarks made during the debate about colonialism.

Spain was a dominant power of the time — it played a leading role in developing the new world, and was proud of it, he said.

Hernando Dussan of Colombia said: "Spain did not destroy our people. Spain joined them."

Several Latin American delegates spoke of "demagoguery" and insults to the name of Columbus.

Costa Rica's Emilia Castro de Barrios said one thing could not be denied: Columbus discovered that the world is round.

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Why the complaining?

IF BRITISH Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher shares deep concern with other European Community leaders at the slow pace of peace efforts in the Middle East, she certainly intends to do nothing about it.

At the end of two days of European Economic Community (EEC) summit talks in Copenhagen on Saturday, the British prime minister insisted that she would continue refusing to meet representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) until it "escapes violence". Why? we ask. Doesn't Mrs. Thatcher know that because of her unjustified stubborn stance over the PLO an Arab delegation, whose mission had been to talk only about peace, has had to cancel a planned visit to London? How can she lend her voice to complain at the slow pace of peace-making when Britain, under her leadership, does not want to talk to the people most affected by the dispute and address the real issues that need to be solved?

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A time for China to step

The Arab League seven-member committee, headed by His Majesty King Hussein, started its visit and consultations aimed at presenting the Arab peace plan to the People's Republic of China.

It is only fair to say that China has invariably been among the most vigorous supporters of Palestinian rights, and has always condemned Israel's continued aggression on the Arabs, in words as well as in deeds. China happens to be the only U.N. Security Council member who established no diplomatic, economic or cultural ties with Israel.

The Arabs are imperatively concerned to see China have its say in establishing peace in the Middle East. The fair attitude China has committed itself to, together with the international weight it has by all standards make its participation in the peace process for the region high.

Al Dustour: Chinese role and its

heavy impact

historically of a positive nature. The Arab committee's visit to Peking is an open invitation for this great Asian country to exercise its role and right for helping put an end to Israel's continued aggression against the Arab Nation, and save the region from wide-scale explosions that threaten world peace. China has been kept away from participating in finding a just and durable peace in the region, in spite of the important political role it has in the world arena. Such a participation in a coordinated international effort for establishing peace will incorporate a new positive and effective element, known for having escaped Zionist influence, and maintaining a friendly attitude towards Arab rights and the cause of the Palestinian people.

A follow-up of the outcome of the Arab committee's visit to Peking is of great consequence for rallying world support of Arab just struggle.

Congress looks at defence spending

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's \$1,600 billion, five-year military spending programme faces a tough challenge in the new session of Congress, where moves are afoot to trim spending on six major projects that have been criticised as costly and unnecessary.

President Reagan made it clear recently that he would not "back down one iota" in his insistence that military spending increase seven per cent annually in real terms until 1986 to counter a Soviet arms building. But congressmen, citing forecasts that the federal deficit could exceed \$200 billion a year for the next several years, now expect a strong effort to scale down the military budget in the current three-week special session.

By one estimate, Congress could save about \$150 billion over several years by cutting the controversial MX nuclear missile, the B-1 nuclear bomber, two giant aircraft carriers, the navy's FA-18 fighter-bomber, the M-1 Abrams battle tank and the army's AH-64 Apache attack helicopter.

"I think we have to cut out about as much as you can cut," Senate Republican majority leader Howard Baker of Tennessee said after a recent meeting with the Republican president. "We're going to have to take a look at defence," he added.

The scrutiny will start in the

House of Representatives Appropriations Committee with a proposal to cut \$4.3 billion from the Pentagon budget for continued development of the super-accurate MX missile, whose total estimated cost is around \$30 billion.

Democrats and Republicans predict the debate will be only the opening skirmish on the 1983 and 1984 military budgets, suggesting that the days are over when Mr. Reagan got a virtual blank cheque

from Congress on military spending.

Mr. Reagan will face a more hostile Congress in January, when the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives will rise by 26 following Republican losses

in this month's congressional elections. But some congressional aides said privately few if any of the six "big-ticket" military programmes mentioned as targets for cutbacks were likely to be eliminated entirely, partly because each meant jobs in members' districts.

A more likely outcome, according to Senator Richard Lugar, Republican of Indiana, was that President Reagan's military buildup would be stretched over a longer period.

The clash between Mr. Reagan and Congress over military spending is likely to centre on the following programmes:

— The MX intercontinental ballistic missile, which faces a serious challenge in the House of Representatives and the Senate after Mr. Reagan's new proposal last week for basing the weapon.

Under the plan, 100 of the 10-warhead missiles would be based in Wyoming in a tightly-knit "dense pack". In theory, the explosion of the first missile in a surprise Soviet attack would destroy or deflect those following, leaving some MXs to hit back.

But many critics, including weapons experts, question whether the dense pack plan would actually make the MX less vulnerable to a Soviet first strike.

— The B-1 bomber, estimated like the MX to cost about \$30 billion, which Mr. Reagan says is needed to replace ageing B-52s.

Opponents in Congress contend the B-1, revived by Mr. Reagan after President Jimmy Carter had

rejected it, would be obsolete by the time it is deployed and say the funds would be better used to speed development of advanced "Stealth" bombers.

— Two nuclear-powered aircraft carriers which Mr. Reagan wants to build at a cost of \$20 billion.

Congressional opponents say the carriers could be sunk by relatively inexpensive missiles.

— FA-18 navy jet "fighter-bombers" which will cost an estimated \$40 billion to produce.

Recent Pentagon flight tests called into question the performance of the jets and an earlier congressional report concluded the FA-18 would fail in its key task of protecting U.S. fleets against Soviet air attack.

— The M-1, a fast and powerful battle tank which has won praise from the army despite a history of engine trouble and sizzling costs.

Some critics say the M-1 would perform less well than the older M-60, which is slower but costs only a third as much and is less likely to break down.

— The AH-64 helicopter, which the administration says would be a vital weapon against Soviet tanks because of its ability to fly at night and fire laser-guided missiles.

Some critics have attacked cost increases in the system, now estimated at over \$7 billion, while others say the craft would be easily downed by small arms fire and would disappear from a battlefield within two weeks.

DE FACTONOMICS

To make the most out of seminars

If seminars deal with future developments, they tend to reflect the prospects of a given sector or activity. They should boil down to operational suggestions and conclusions and not remain a mental exercise.

It is, of course, unrealistic to judge the productivity of a seminar by how fast its proposals are implemented. In real life, there is a time lag between a new idea floated in a meeting and its transformation into action. This fact should not frustrate enthusiastic people nor belittle the usefulness of a seminar.

— Seminars should provide an educational platform for all participants. Depending on how orderly and properly they are managed, such gatherings are ruled by agreed-upon procedures. These procedures should maximise the benefit from the interaction of various views and ideas within the lim-

ited time usually allocated to these meetings.

Not all seminars are always successful. Their outcome depends upon many factors, most important of which are: The level and competence of the attendants and participants, whether research papers are being prepared in advance, the daily organisation of the meetings, the skill and wisdom of the chairman, the chairman's reporting on the main outcome of the seminar, adequate publicity and active follow-up.

We also expect that over time, our seminars will become more and more specialised and will deal with detailed issues. We are already dealing with more specific matters than the overall ones which were discussed ten years ago.

Seminars are productive to the extent that we make them so in our preparations, management and follow-up.

Strengthening of Leninist legality

Aliyev signals that relaxed times are over for the Soviets

By Richard Baumforth
Reuter

MOSCOW — The rapid promotion into the Kremlin leadership of a tough-talking regional Communist Party chief, Gaidar Aliyev, has led to speculation that a drive against corruption and high-level inertia may be in the offing.

"Prepare yourselves for further measures," warned the government daily *Fraternite-Matin* last month in a typically sombre editorial.

"Happily, the mood is not one of universal despondency. A Lebanese trader is cashing in the crisis by selling an original *page* or clothing material to Ivorian women. It is gaily printed with the legend 'anti-conjuncture' and facsimiles of banknotes worth 6,000 cfa francs (\$16) — the same price as the cloth."

"We tell the women they're getting a bargain," said the trader. "We give them back what they pay." But joking will not convince hard-nosed foreigners to invest in the country, now overtaken by Cameroon as the most attractive prospect in the region after Nigeria, banking sources say. President Houphouet-Boigny's failure to designate a successor and the dearth of obvious candidates for the job are added disincentives to investors, the sources add.

Nevertheless, the country would have to slide a long way further before times are as bad as in most neighbouring states. World Bank President Alden Clausen was clearly impressed by Abidjan when he visited earlier this year, and he reassured his audience by promising: "We intend to build a few more skyscrapers and

install a first-class telephone network. Now they have to pay the bills," one banker said.

President Houphouet-Boigny, who likes to tell his eight million citizens they should copy the diligent workers of the Far East, has responded to the recession with a string of austerity measures.

Austerity measures

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Baq'ah holds archaeological treasures

By Patrick McGovern

Since the Late Middle Palaeolithic — about 45,000 years ago — the Baq'ah Valley of Jordan, 15 kilometres northwest of Amman, has seen an almost continuous succession of human occupation. A good soil, abundant water and an arid climate which sustains diverse plants and animals have probably characterised this fertile, self-contained valley during much of its history — certainly during most of the post-Pleistocene era after 10,000 B.C. and very likely well before that. With average temperatures varying between about 9° Centigrade in January and 26° Centigrade in July, the Baq'ah now supports two crops each year, in May and September, including wheat, tobacco, tomatoes, and melons, along with the yield from vineyards and fruit and olive orchards.

Today the Baq'ah Valley is rapidly becoming a suburb of Amman. Its considerable archaeological treasures are jeopardised by modern development, and rescue operations have been undertaken to recover the maximum amount of data with the least expenditure of time, money and effort.

One of the most significant achievements has been the recovery of an artifact and skeletal sequence from a group of burial caves that spans the late Bronze Age down to the beginning of the Iron Age, from about 1550 to 1050 B.C. Imported Greek and Cypriot pottery wares recovered from the late Bronze caves demonstrated that Transjordan took part in the international trade of the time. Cylinder seals and glass beads, standing very near the beginning of glass-making in the Near East, were evidence of Mesopotamian contacts. Scarabs attested to Egyptian relations. Most important of all, however, was a cache of 11 complete pieces of iron jewelry from an early Iron Age tomb. Together with 40 additional fragments of another two dozen such artifacts, this jewelry almost tripled the number of iron objects known from early Iron Age Palestinian contexts, and represented a seven-fold increase for Transjordan. The iron is in fact a form of mild steel and as the earliest verified instance of mild steel from Jordan, it joins a small group of the earliest dated steel from the eastern Mediterranean.

Theory challenged

Archaeological material from the Baq'ah first surfaced in the winter of 1975-76, when late Bronze I (ca. 1550-1400 B.C.) pottery of an exceptional quality suddenly appeared on the antiquities market in Amman. The pottery had important implications, since an apparent lack of middle Bronze and late Bronze remains had been noted by Glueck and de Vaux, not just in the Baq'ah but in all of central and southern Transjordan. In order to account for this, Glueck proposed that the Transjordanian plateau, south of the Wadi Zarga, had been inhabited only by nomads between about 1900 and 1300 B.C. His hypothesis appeared to support the biblical stories of patriarchal "nomadic" life and the eventual rise of the Israelite, Ammonite, Moabite, and Ed-

omite kingdoms only at the beginning of the Iron Age. In one form or another, Glueck's theory found its way into most of the standard biblical and archaeological handbooks.

Yet the fine late Bronze Age pottery on the antiquities market immediately called Glueck's thesis into question again. The looted pottery was traced to a partly robbed burial cave (A2) on a hill bordering the northwestern Baq'ah, Jebel al-Hawayah. A rescue operation was initiated under the auspices of the American Schools of Oriental Research and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. At first, the plan was only to carry out a trial sounding in the cave with the hope of finding an undisturbed stratigraphic sequence of late Bronze Age pottery and artifacts. Although this goal was only partially realised, the archaeological remains recovered from the cave in 1977 were so impressive that a full-scale programme of survey and excavation was planned with additional support from the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, the National Geographic Society, the Kyle-Kelso Archaeological Fund, and a number of private donors.

Beginning with an intensive geological survey of the Umm ad-Danahir region in 1978, the study of the Baq'ah Valley became an integral part of the University Museum's Applied Science Center for Archaeology (MASCA). Test excavations of significant magnetic features in 1980 and 1981 led to the discovery of undisturbed late Bronze II (ca. 1400-1200 B.C.) and Iron IA burial remains (ca. 1200-1050 B.C.) — finds that filled out the archaeological record from 1550 to 1050 B.C. Moreover, test soundings at potential settlement sites in the region during the last two seasons culminated in the extensive investigation of a two-and-a-half hectare (six acre) site Khirbet Umm ad-Danahir, located at the northwestern pass to the valley, above the perennial spring of 'aïn Umm Ad-Danahir. Archaeological remains discovered here, contemporary with those from the burial caves, enabled archaeologists to make the essential connection of a settlement site with a cemetery.

The role of scientific survey methods has been crucial to the success of the Baq'ah Valley Project. Geophysical prospecting instruments, which had initially been developed to aid in the exploration for subsurface natural resources, have also proved to be invaluable for archaeological reconnaissance. The successful use of a prospecting instrument is directly related to the geology of a region. To start with, the Baq'ah Valley itself is a geological anomaly on the central Transjordanian plateau — a flat depressed plain encircled by hills, in striking contrast to the series of deeply cut gorges descending to the Jordan Valley that characterise the plateau. This suggested an ancient lake bed to early travellers, an intriguing hypothesis yet to be proved.

The hills surrounding the valley consist of tiers of limestone and sandstone, and the burial caves run in rows at the back of these tiers. Most of the caves were pro-



Cave A4 was crammed with bones of 220 individuals

bably first formed by erosion, and subsequently were enlarged for burials or occupation. They were all eventually silted up partially or fully, depending on the amount and intensity of rainfall, vegetation and soil development. In many places along the slopes, a soil covering of about 15 centimeters that thickens toward the back of the terraces would have permanently sealed off some of the cave entrances.

The challenge was to find and employ a method of detection which improved upon the visual techniques undoubtedly used by grave robbers — the usual tell-tale visual signs are vegetation clumps over cave entrances and unfilled crevices. After simulated trials in Philadelphia using soil and stone from the valley, the cesium magnetometer was ultimately chosen as best suited for the task at Baq'ah because a measurable magnetic contrast of as little as one part in 10,000 could be detected between the more magnetic soil inside the caves and the surrounding limestone and sandstone bedrock.

Magnetic investigation

The geophysical phase of the 1978 survey involved taking magnetic measurements every two metres in the vicinity of known robbed-out caves — 32 in all, almost all dating to various phases of the late Bronze Age. The data were then prepared a contour map with equal intensity intervals.

Areas of high magnetic intensity could be pinpointed where filled in caves might exist. The 1980 and 1981 field seasons were mounted with high hopes that archaeologically important caves could be found still hidden and intact.

The area selected for initial study was a logical one on Jebel al-Hawayah, close to the already investigated Caves A1 and A2. Its high magnetic pattern showed a large, deep elliptical shape and there were also smaller low magnetic disturbances lying close by to the north.

The test excavation completely fulfilled all expectations. An undisturbed Iron IA burial cave (ca. 1200-1050 B.C.) lay beneath the ground, precisely in the area of high magnetism. And yet, when excavation began, only a small outcrop of bed rock was visible beneath heavy cover of vegetation. The cave itself designated Cave A4, had been completely silted up; it had also been sealed off by six large boulders, each about

1.5 meters in length, which blocked the main entrance. A secondary entrance in the back roof of the cave had also been closed off with another large boulder. The interior of the cave was circular, and measured about 4.5 metres in diameter and two meters in height. Its main entrance faced due east onto a forecourt, measuring about 20 square metres, which was entered by a ramp on the southeast. Both the ramp and forecourt were completely silted up, in some places to a depth of 2.5 metres.

Cave A4 was literally crammed with bones. Over 220 individuals had been deposited in a pair of secondary heaps within the very restricted area of the cave. All ages were represented among the human skeletal remains; adult males were twice as numerous as adult females. The main pathologies consisted of arthritis and dental caries. The faunal collection included sheep, goat, dog and various species of terrestrial molluscs.

Accompanying the burials was a unique assemblage of 70 whole vessels in a considerable variety of forms — bowls, lamps, jugs, jugs, kraters, "beer strainers," a chalice, and basal mortars. The pottery was an inferior product; the clay was poorly levigated, the wares badly fired, and decoration almost non-existent. Other associated artifacts included beads of semiprecious stone, bone, and shell (glass and faience were rare); so this layer produced eight whole vessels and over 5,000 sherds, mostly rims and bases of bowls, lamps, jugs and jugs. This pottery dated primarily to the period from about 1550 to 1400 B.C., the late Bronze IA period, with a small mixture of later materials from late Bronze IB (ca. 1400-1200 B.C.) and later Bronze II (ca. 1400-1200 B.C.).

A unique find from this layer consisted of a body sherd from a thirteenth century B.C. Mycenaean IIIB stirrup jar, comparable in shape and decoration to stirrup jars from several important nearby contexts — the Amman Airport Building, the Deir 'Alla sanctuary and Level VIII at Beth Shan. This sherd and another four vessels of the same type from Cave B3, a late Bronze II tomb, originated most probably from central mainland Greece according to a neutron activation analysis study.

Moreover, neutron activation analysis of the ware of three Base Ring II jug fragments suggested a northeastern coastal Cypriot origin. This fact, combined with the central mainland Greece origin of the Mycenaean vessels, suggests that a maritime trade route flourished between Greece and Palestine during the period, with a probable stop-over point in Cyprus. Imports probably travelled overland along the Jezreel Valley, south through the Jordan Valley, and then up the Wadi Zarga and Wadi Umm ad-Danahir to the Baq'ah Valley.

The ancient burial remains in Cave A2 were found below the upper layer. In the process of laying out multiple burials, earlier

interments were disturbed; older skeletons and their associated grave goods were pushed into jumbled heaps under and around boulders and cobbles that had washed into the cave of spalled off its roof. The skeletal remains comprised 14 people, at least six adults and three infants. Dental caries and excessive tooth wear, perhaps a result of the inadvertent mixing of grinding debitage with grain, as well as arthritic lipping on vertebrae and limb bones (also a function of age and other factors) pointed to an agricultural way of life.

Still, there is no reason to suppose that the mild steel artifacts found here were imported.

Settled lifestyle

While Cave A4 furnished archaeological data for the beginning of the early Iron Age in the Baq'ah, Cave A2 — only 15 metres away — provided abundant evidence for a sedentary lifestyle in the valley during the late Bronze Age. It also attested to the existence of well-developed trade connections with other parts of the ancient world. The 1977 sounding in Cave A2 was confined to a 20-square-metre area. This represented only a quarter of the cave's total area, but afforded a very clear picture of the burial deposits. The uppermost layer, of course, had been very recently disturbed by the grave robbers. Even so, this layer produced eight whole vessels and over 5,000 sherds, mostly rims and bases of bowls, lamps, jugs and jugs. This pottery dated primarily to the period from about 1550 to 1400 B.C., the late Bronze IA period, with a small mixture of later materials from late Bronze IB (ca. 1400-1200 B.C.) and later Bronze II (ca. 1400-1200 B.C.).

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The 75 glass beads found in Cave A2 also imply that people in the Baq'ah Valley shared in the cosmopolitan civilisation of the late Bronze Age. While 42 types of beads were discovered — made not only of glass, but of faience, frit (primarily Egyptian Blue), copper, bronze, worked bone and shell, and various semiprecious stones, principally carnelian and agate — the most significant specimens from a technological standpoint were the so-called crumb and eye beads. Since glass was probably invented about 1600 B.C. in northern Mesopotamia, these finely crafted beads must stand very near the beginnings of glass-making in the Near East. And they are certainly among the earliest glass artifacts recovered on the Transjordanian plateau. The fact that the glass beads in this cave out-numbered those of faience by more than three to one, together with the discovery of four Mittannian Common Style cylinder seals, would indicate stronger Syro-Mesopotamian — as opposed to Egyptian — connections in the Late Bronze I period.

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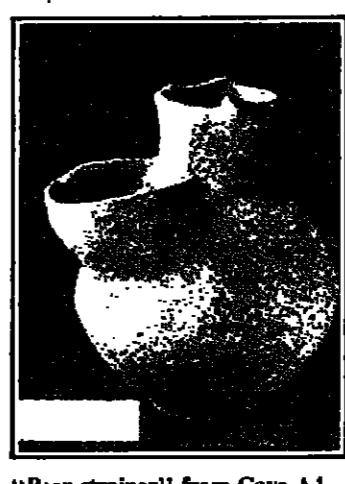
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largest cave on Jebel Al Oesir if a high magnetic anomaly, four by six metres, proved to be another chamber or extension of the cave. Excavation revealed that the magnetic disturbance was indeed the result of the accumulation of enormous quantities of stone and soil that had silted through the hole at the back of the cave. This compacted mass of fill covered two undisturbed burial layers.

In the topmost layer, three skeletons were clustered around an inverted bichrome bowl. The legs of each body had apparently been detached before the flesh had completely decayed, since there were no butchering marks on the bones nor evident disarticulation which results from dismembering a skeleton. Fully articulated legs and stacks of long bones laid out in the same direction were found elsewhere in the cave. Intermingled with the upper skeletons (three others lay nearby) were pieces of charcoal and completely charred long bones. These might be interpreted as cremation remains as the charred human bones found in and around the Amman Airport Building have been. But it is possible, too, that the bones in Cave B3 found their way into a campfire in the cave of a more mundane sort, which might account for a blackened cooking pot from the same context.

Below a ten-centimetre sterile layer lay a second level of burial remains. Although the pottery and artifacts were similar to those in the level above, their stratigraphic relationship obviously dated them to an earlier phase of late Bronze II. The intact skeletons of six individuals were recovered here — again without legs.



"Beer-strainer" from Cave A4

— including a pre-adolescent female with a rare condition of spinal curvature. It may or may not be significant that this body was the most ornately decorated. Besides a double-stringed necklace of more than a hundred beads — one string solely of short bronze cylindrical beads, the other of glass bead in various colours and shapes — there was a large, roughly cut carnelian barrel bead, placed at the back of the neck, together with flanking pairs of small spherical carnelian beads.

The goals of future seasons of work at Khirbet Umm ad-Danahir will be to gain a wider exposure of the upper levels, and then remove them to excavate fully the late Bronze Age levels. Iron I surface sherds suggest that the site was occupied during that time as well. This level may be more difficult to locate, however, since the apparent lower standard of living may have gone along with a contracted area of settlement. The ideal result would be to find a stratified sequence of late Bronze and early Iron Age levels matching those from the burial caves. But the fulfilment of such a hope must await a great deal of further meticulous work in this fascinating and culturally complex region.

— Archaeology magazine, New York

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

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Al Hayat pharmacy (24 hrs.) 24136
Fatahle pharmacy 37140
Fayez pharmacy 66742
Sarah pharmacy 71140
Tasnia taxi 34660
Jerusalem taxi 39655
Taxis and 23715
Kurd taxi 841309

IRBID:

Dr. Nidal Haddad 74540
Sa'doun pharmacy 2130

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghazi Rousan 82938
Al Hikmah pharmacy 1—

GENERAL

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Radio Jordan 74111
Ministry of Tourism 43211
Hotel complaints 666412
Price complaints 661176
Telephone: Information 12
Jordans and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 17
Cable or telegram 18
Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple (African) 240 / 200
Apple (American) 240 / 200
Apple (Double Red) 370 / 300
Apple (Golden) 270 / 200
Apple (Turkish) 300 / 260
Apple (French) 270 / 200
Banana (Starkey) 260 / 200
Banana (Makhamar) 225 / 180
Onion (dry) 100 / 80
Onion (green) 180 / 160
Oranges 250 / 200
Oranges (Mandarine) 230 / 180
Grapes (Black) 300 / 250
Grapes (Red) 300 / 250
Cabbage 140 / 120
Okra 150 / 100
Carrot 380 / 300
Cauliflower (white) 180 / 180
Deserts 700 / 600
Jordan Valley 615
Low/high temperature in deg. C.
Amman 11 / 6
Tripoli, Madrid (R.U.) 9 / 8
Athens (Greece) 11 / 8
Geneva,

SPORTS

Evert clinches Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — Chris Evert Lloyd produced her best ever tennis on grass against Martina Navratilova Sunday to win the Australian Open Championship—the one Grand Slam event which had always eluded her in the past.

Lloyd, winner of six U.S., four French and three Wimbledon titles, won 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 to relieve, Navratilova of the title and move to a 30-18 lifetime lead over her great rival.

Navratilova, who beat Lloyd in the final here last year and again at Wimbledon this summer, had won 14 of her previous 16 tournaments since January, losing only to West German Sylvia Hanika and American Pam Shriver.

But the number one seed never looked capable of lifting her fifth Grand Slam title and admitted: "I played lousy. I just had one of those days and when you do that against a top player you're not going to make it. I don't want to take anything away from Chris. She played a great match."

Lloyd may, or may not, be

about to embark on her bid to become the first woman since Australian Margaret Court in 1970 to complete the Grand Slam of the four major tournaments.

Traditionalists insist the Grand Slam must be completed in the same calendar year and with the Australian Open's recent switch from January to December it has become the last of the four events to be played.

Others take the view that holding all four titles is enough, which would leave Lloyd with just the French and Wimbledon next summer to complete the elusive feat.

Sunday's match never reached the heights of last year, when Navratilova won a classic encounter 6-7, 6-4, 7-5.

Lloyd battled back from 5-1 down to 5-5 in the final set in 1981 before losing and admitted: "I still dream of that last set."

For a brief spell, Lloyd looked like she might throw victory away for a second time when, after achieving service breaks in the second

and fourth games for a 5-1 lead in the final set, Navratilova pulled back the next two games.

Lloyd described the Australian title as "the missing link" in her career and added: "In 10 years time I would have looked back and thought there was something missing, especially since I've been in the final twice."

The American, currently the world's number two, surprised Navratilova by repeatedly taking the initiative at the net.

"When you play Martina you have to take the net away because she's devastating there," Lloyd said.

Navratilova, who later teamed up with Shriver to beat West Germans Claudia Kohde and Eva Pfaff 6-4, 6-2 in the doubles final, blamed her defeat on too many unforced errors.

"Shots I routinely make I was missing," she said. "and I had games when I got only one out of six first serves in. It was one of those days when no matter what you try you just don't get there."

Austrian skiers upstage Swiss

PONTRESINA, Switzerland (R) — Austrian skiers upstaged the seasoned Swiss on the Lagabell near here Sunday by taking the two top places in the men's downhill race, the opening event of the Alpine World Cup skiing season.

Hartl Weirather, reigning

World Champion and World Cup winner in 1981, cruised to his sixth individual World Cup victory on the difficult 2.7 km course in a time of one minute 42.13 seconds,

a second ahead of his fellow-countryman Franz Klammer and Swiss favourite Peter Mueller.

Klammer's second place was one of the day's many surprises, seemingly due more to determination than technical prowess. Vladimir Makeev of the Soviet Union also did astoundingly well to finish eighth.

Switzerland's Conradin Catthomen, widely fancied to share the honours with Mueller, was unlucky to come fourth after losing his balance near the end of the race.

A disappointed Steve Podborski of Canada, the current cup-holder, came 12th and blamed his team's poor showing on an over-relaxed attitude.

Floyd wins Sun City golf

SUN CITY, South Africa (R) — The sudden-death playoff looks like becoming the hallmark of the Sun City million dollar golf challenge, following Ray Floyd's nail-biting victory over fellow American Craig Stadler Sunday.

In January's inaugural tournament, American Johnny Miller finally clinched victory over Spain's Severiano Ballesteros after an epic nine extra holes.

Sunday, U.S. PGA champion

Floyd had to wait until the 76th hole to carry off the \$300,000 winner's cheque—thanks to two errors by Stadler.

English cricket facing cash crisis

LONDON (R) — English cricket is facing a cash crisis after a major sponsor withdrew recently, saying the county game was no longer worth backing.

Cricket in this country has now lost two major sponsors for 1984 in the past five weeks, one from county cricket, the other from the World Cup.

"At the price, sponsoring the County Championship is not cost effective," a spokesman for Schweppes, the soft-drink makers, said.

Schweppes, who will have put over one million sterling (\$1.6 million) into the County Championship since 1977 and have £350,000 (\$400,000) budgeted for 1983, decided last week not to renew the contract.

Prudential Assurance, backers

of the Cricket World Cup since 1972, announced a month ago they would stop funding the competition after 1983.

But unlike Schweppes, Prudential were "very satisfied" with the results of advertising through cricket sponsorship, a spokesman said.

Despite these setbacks, Peter Lush of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), who has overall responsibility for the English game, was confident new sponsors could be found.

Schweppes, however, remain less optimistic as far as the County Championship is concerned. The Championship gets small crowds and little television coverage, the company's spokesman said. "We get some newspaper and radio advertising, returns from backing sport are unpredictable."

Britain's press last week predicted hard times ahead for county cricket.

"The competition stands in greater peril of extinction than at any other time in its hundred-odd years existence," John Arlott wrote in the *Guardian*. The county game was the foundation of English first-class cricket, he said.

The Sun predicted a cash crisis

for county cricket and difficulties in finding a new sponsor. The three-day game's popularity had fallen well behind that of one-day League and Cup cricket, it said.

"Things are not easy with the current state of the economy," the Schweppes spokesman said, adding that unlike television advertising, returns from backing sport were unpredictable.

Protests were few and far between and national rivalries seldom surfaced. All in all, the idealised Olympic spirit of friendly competition pervaded the Asian Games which ended here Saturday.

The most ugly moment came

when North Korean players and

Hearns willing to give Benitez another chance

NEW ORLEANS (R) — Thomas Hearns, once known as the "Detroit Hit Man" for the savagery of his punching, became a world champion for the second time here on Friday night when he out-thought and outboxed Puerto Rican Wilfredo Benitez.

The 24-year-old former World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight champion ended Benitez' 18-month reign as World Boxing Council (WBC) super-welterweight king with a majority verdict.

Then, inexplicably, Hearns almost threw away the title in the eighth round when he switched tactics and stood rooted in the middle of the ring to slug it out.

Benitez could hardly believe his luck and he enjoyed three rounds of supremacy with an awesome body assault.

In the 11th, the fight swung again. Benitez decided to coast for three minutes and never regained the initiative as Hearns completed his 35th win in 36 fights, 32 inside the distance.

Benitez, who was making his third defence of the crown he wrested from Britain's Maurice Hope in May 1981, has 43 wins, one draw and two defeats to his credit.

Boxing's most durable champion, WBC super-bantamweight King Wilfredo Gomez of Puerto Rico, completed his 17th defence of the title when he stopped Mexican challenger Lupe Pintor in the 14th round.

Pintor, the WBC bantamweight champion, could not cope with Gomez' superior strength and stamina.

Gomez, 26, has held the title for five and a half years, making him the longest-reigning current champion.

The other world heavyweight

boxing champion, the virtually

anonymous Mike Weaver, returns from a 14-month layoff to defend his World Boxing Association (WBA) title against top contender Michael Dokes here on Friday.

Weaver, 30, who is forced to play second fiddle to World Boxing Council (WBC) champion Larry Holmes, will be defending his title for the third time. He won the crown when he knocked out John Tate in the 15th round on March 31, 1980.

The American has fought only twice in the last 32 months. In his first defence, he knocked out South African Gerrit Coutze in the 13th round on Oct. 25, 1980.

Then he outpointed compatriot James "Quick" Tilly on Oct. 3, 1981.

Managerial disputes and injuries, both to himself and his opponents, have forced delays and cancellations of scheduled bouts.

Three times this year, Weaver was supposed to defend against Randy Cobb. The first time, last July, he injured a shoulder and had to postpone the match. It was re-scheduled for a month later but Cobb suffered a badly-cut lip in training and it had to be postponed again.

"They say Weaver's a slow stepper in his fights," Dokes said. "Weaver was rusty against Tilly. If that was me in that fight instead of Tilly, I'd be the champion now."

"He'll be even rustier this time. There is no way a slow guy like him is going to decision me, and I sure can't see him catching me and hitting me hard enough to stop me. So what does that leave? Me as the new champion."

metres, the 1,500 metres and the marathon.

Teenage beauty Lydia de Vega of the Philippines thrust her hand high as she breached the tape to win the women's sprint, while Malaysian policeman Rabuan Pit won the men's 100 metres.

South Korean student Yang Kim lost two kilos in weight but won a gold medal in the gruelling marathon and an Iraqi soldier, Capt. Faleh Jarala, caused an upset to win the 1,500 metres by a big margin.

The two Koreas finished third and fourth in the overall medals table, with the South collecting 28 gold and the North 17. They overshadowed all other nations in the boxing tournament where the South Koreans won seven gold and the North Koreans two.

North Korean soldier So Gil Man won four individual golds and a share in three team titles in the shooting championships.

Hosts India came next with 13 golds, cornering most equestrian and golf titles but losing the one they wanted most—the men's hockey title which Pakistan won 7-1 in a superb display of artistry and tactical dominance.

Three girls from Kuwait won gold, silver and bronze in the equestrian show jumping event. Iraq and Kuwait won through to the finals of the football, with the Iraqis taking the gold 1-0.

Olympic spirit pervaded Asian Games

NEW DELHI (R) — The Chinese were impulsive in victory, the North Koreans belligerent in defeat and the Iranians lauded God and Ayatollah Khomeini in their moments of triumph.

The North Koreans were duly deprived of the bronze medal and suspended from taking part in any international football tournament for two years.

China edged Japan out of its long-held Asian medal supremacy, revealing a depth of talent in many of the 21 sporting events, even with their top men's table tennis player Cai Zhenhua injured

supporters beat up a Thai referee because of a penalty he awarded against them in a football match they lost 2-3 to Kuwait.

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China edged Japan out of its long-held Asian medal supremacy, revealing a depth of talent in many of the 21 sporting events, even with their top men's table tennis player Cai Zhenhua injured

as expected. Japan dominated the swimming events but fell four gold short of their 1978 score of 25 and lost the water polo final to China.

"We hadn't realised how much other countries like China, South Korea and Singapore had improved," the Japanese coach commented.

Neither China nor Japan managed to win golds in the traditionally most glamorous track events—the men and women's 100

metres, the 1,500 metres and the marathon.

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AL WAHA STORES

Seventh Circle—Jabal Amman

Big sales on the occasion of the Christmas and the New Year

50 per cent discount on ladies' handbags

15 per cent on sports shoes



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GERMAN CONCERT WEEK

In view of the continuous demand for tickets for the concert of the German Chamber Academy Orchestra on Wednesday Dec. 8, 1982 (which is completely sold out), the organisers of the German Concert Week in Amman have the pleasure to announce that an ADDITIONAL

SPECIAL CONCERT will take place on Thursday, Dec. 9, 1982, at 8 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THE GERMAN CHAMBER ACADEMY ORCHESTRA conducted by Johannes Goritzky will present works by J.S. Bach, Ph.E.Bach and St. Veress.

Tickets for JD 4 each available at: The Goethe Institute (Tel. 41993 from 9 p.m. to 12) and the Haya Arts Centre (Tel. 665195).

SITRA'S FOREIGN BUYERS BY COUNTRY

Asia & Oceania	6,022
North America	2,017
Latin America	206
Europe	1,225

U.S. trade deficit should drive down value of dollar

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is expected to have its biggest-ever trade deficit this year and next, a development most financial analysts think should drive down the value of the dollar in international money markets.

What they cannot say is when the dollar decline will begin.

"Two or three years from now it's clearly going to be much lower, but there's no way of forecasting when," Economist Lester Thurow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) told Reuters.

"This is one of the murkier areas of economic analysis," said Mr. Allen Sinai, another private economist.

According to analysts, currency values tend to reflect movements in inflation, interest rates, and trade balances.

When examined in the light of these variables, a majority of economists believe the dollar is overvalued, especially in relation to the Japanese yen and the West German mark.

"There has got to be a correction in the value of the dollar," according to Mr. David Ernst, a senior analyst with the private firm Evans Economics, who says the dollar is simply "out of line with the fundamentals."

Mr. Ernst confidently predicts a 15 to 20 per cent decline in the value of the dollar relative to the yen and mark in the next year, but he is one of the few analysts willing to make a firm forecast.

Commerce Department Economist David Lund probably represents the majority view best.

Mr. Lund, who specialises in trade analysis, says the U.S. merchandise trade deficit will eclipse the 1978 record of \$42.4 billion this year and move up sharply again next year. In October the deficit was \$5.33 billion.

"The expected deficits usually result in deterioration of the dollar — all other things being equal," Mr. Lund told Reuters. "All other things are never equal," he added.

Ironically, the strong dollar,

which has risen in value by more than 30 per cent against most other currencies in the past two years, has not helped the U.S. economy.

The record trade deficits anticipated for 1983 are partly the fault of the rising dollar, which has boosted prices of American exports and made them less attractive to foreign consumers.

"When the dollar goes to very high levels, it destroys your exports," Mr. Thurow said.

In addition, a decline in the dollar's value will not immediately reverse the upward trend in trade deficits, analysts say, because the full effects of changing currency values can be spread over as long as two years.

The strong dollar could hold back the long-awaited recovery from the U.S. recession and the impact on the steel and car industries may be particularly devastating.

These industries are already under assault from foreign competition and the strength of the dollar tends to reduce the price of foreign goods and make them more attractive to American consumers.

Americans can buy German cars and Japanese electronics at cheaper prices because the dollar is high.

"U.S. manufactured products have become unsellable on world markets because they are simply too expensive," Mr. Thurow said.

Changing currency values alone have boosted the cost of a \$10,000 American product from 18,000 marks in October 1980 to 26,000 marks today, he noted.

But at least one analyst thinks the dollar has still further to climb.

The dollar will be stronger against most currencies over the next six months because cuts in the U.S. inflation rate have made the dollar more attractive to investors, according to Mr. Sinai, a senior economist with the economic consulting firm Data Resources.

He agrees with other analysts that at some point the worsening trade picture will undermine the dollar, but he adds: "it will not lose much of its gains."

B.A. reports more profits

LONDON (R) — British Airways (B.A.) reported Sunday sharply increased profits for the peak travel season.

But losses during the off-season may cancel out profits by the end of the financial year, the airline said.

A company spokesman reported increased turnover and a surplus of £151 million (\$240 million) before interest charges for the six months ended Sept. 30, an improvement of £126 million (\$202 million).



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four common words.

PAPYL



NENAH

MUTTOS

KRUBEE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: LATHE VOCAL DAMAGE FACIAL
Answer: "What's your son taking in college?" — "ALL I'VE GOT"

USSR, Japan agree on fish quotas

TOKYO (R) — The Soviet Union and Japan have agreed to maintain this year's fish catch quotas in each other's 200-mile economic sea zones next year, government sources said Sunday.

They said the Japanese quota would be kept at 750,000 tonnes and the Soviet Union's at 650,000 tonnes, the levels in force since 1979, under an agreement reached in Tokyo Saturday night.

During the negotiations, begun on Nov. 24, the Soviet side had demanded that Japan's quota be cut by 100,000 tonnes, the sources said.

The Japanese compromised by agreeing to Soviet trawling in the Pacific off northern Japan all the year round instead of banning it as before in July and August, and on trial tuna fishing by two Soviet boats in part of the Pacific, according to the sources.

Spain devalues peseta

MADRID (R) — Spain's new socialist government effectively devalued the floating peseta by eight per cent Saturday in its first move to revive the country's ailing economy.

Mr. Miguel Boyer, sworn in as economy, commerce and finance minister with the rest of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez' cabinet 24 hours earlier, said the peseta would open on Monday at 127.66 pesetas to the dollar, eight per cent below its 117.45 peseta close last week.

The Bank of Spain would then leave the market to determine a final level, he said, though he gave no indication of the central bank's future intervention policy.

The peseta has depreciated against the dollar by about 20 per cent since the start of this year.

It was first floated against other currencies in 1974 and effectively devalued against the dollar by 24.87 per cent in 1977.

Mr. Boyer, announcing the move on television, cited spiraling inflation, forecast to reach 15 per cent by the end of the year, a deteriorating balance of payments deficit and increased speculation as the main reasons behind the decision.

He later told a press conference that speculation had been provoked by rumours over future socialist policy regarding the peseta which had been circulating since the Oct. 28 general elections, in which the socialists won an absolute majority.

Mr. Boyer said the devaluation had been carefully considered with the help of experts from the Bank of Spain and would inevitably help the country's flagging exports.

But opposition critics said the move would be inflationary and contradicted the government's declared aims for the economy.

Mr. Gonzalez has said he hopes to cut inflation to 12 per cent by the end of next year while the government hopes money supply growth will slow to 13 per cent

from the Bank of Spain's 17.5 per cent ceiling this year.

Mr. Boyer also announced that private banks' obligatory deposits with the Bank of Spain would be raised one percentage point to 6.75 per cent of total deposits as a means of absorbing an expected rise in the money supply after the devaluation.

Bankers said the effective eight per cent devaluation appeared carefully timed following Friday's Bank of Spain directive to Spanish banks not to lend pesetas on the short term foreign exchange markets outside the country from Monday.

Market sources said the central bank spent almost \$700 million of its gold and foreign exchange reserves in October to stop the peseta's slide.

Mr. Boyer said he would be seeing the presidents of Spain's seven largest banks on Thursday and would put to them some of the government's further plans for the economy.

Bonn's reluctant industrialist

BONN — Whether he likes it or not — and the chances are that he does not — Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, West Germany's new finance minister, finds himself at the top of an industrial empire.

For one thing, his companies are in some of the most problem-ridden sectors, such as steel, ships and coal. For another, as a Christian Democrat (CDU) and firm supporter of the market economy, Herr Stoltenberg must have some misgivings on ideological, as well as economic grounds.

The industrial companies in question are either wholly or largely owned by the federal state — and form only one of a wider picture of state holding, extending into the banking, transport, building, research and development. The federal net even reaches as far as Davos, Switzerland, where there is a clinic for war victims, and to Berlin where the government shares control of an organisation to run cultural festivals.

According to a new 500-page report issued by the Bonn government, the state has — directly and indirectly — stakes in more than 900 enterprises of the most varied kind.

It is worth stressing that the figures relate only to activities in which the federal government — including its agencies such as the post and railways — has an interest, not to those in which the provincial state governments are involved on their own behalf.

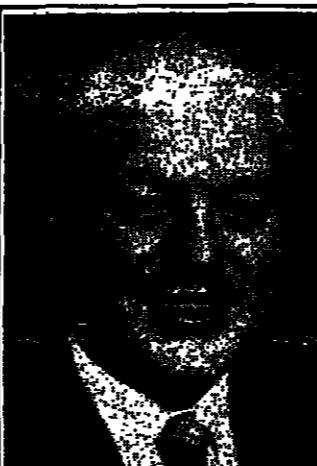
However, the available data give a picture of state influence which is clearly lower than that in France, for example, but which is greater than might have been expected in a country which so often publicly stresses the importance of private enterprise and market forces.

This emerges most sharply in the industrial sector for which the

finance ministry has the administrative responsibility. In addition to the industrial concerns mentioned earlier, in which the state has a controlling stake, there are two other major companies in which it has a minority, but still highly influential share.

They are the energy and chemicals concern Veba, the biggest German industrial enterprise in terms of turnover, and Volkswagen (V.W.) the vehicles manufacturer.

The companies — Veba, V.W.



Dr. Gerhard Stoltenberg, Bonn's new finance minister

and the majority holdings — together had turnover last year of DM108 billion (\$42 billion) and employed more than 450,000 people.

The finance ministry notes with apparent pride that total investment was up to DM8.4 billion after DM6.9 billion in 1980, and that quite a lot of it went on projects in structurally weak regions (for example Lower Saxony where V.W. and Salzgitter have their headquarters).

This comment is not developed, but raises the question of how far investment may have been conditioned by regional investment needs and how far by the best profit interests of the enterprises involved.

The importance of these companies is further underlined by figures showing their joint share of domestic industrial production.

For example, nearly half of West German production of aluminum comes from this group (chiefly through VAW, which is part of the Veba concern), one third of its iron ore, one quarter of its electric power and 12 per cent of its hard coal.

Apart from its industrial interests, the finance ministry is also involved in what one would expect to be its more natural line of business — banking.

By far the most important example is the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau — literally "credit office for reconstruction" — which has its origin in the European Recovery Programme (Marshall Aid) after World War II.

Nowadays it provides cheap loans for medium-sized companies in particular, takes over export business guarantees — and come in handy to the federal government (which has an 80 per cent stake) politically as well as financially from time to time.

One example is the cheap credit it provided to Poland in the mid-1970s, a key element in the development of better relations between Bonn and Warsaw.

The fact that the state has a majority stake does not imply that the enterprise concerned meekly accepts a diktat from Bonn.

Lufthansa, the West German airline majority-owned by the federal state, vigorously pressed the government a few years ago for reimbursement of losses caused

— Financial Times news features

Peanuts

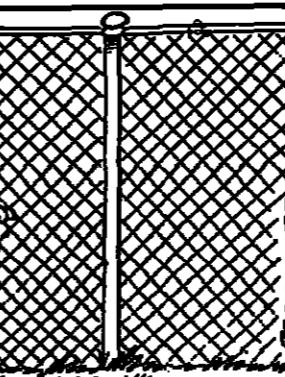
ERASE SCRUB ERASE
ERASE SCRUB ERASE
ERASE SCRUB ERASE
ERASE SCRUB ERASE

LOOK AT THIS, MARCIE!
TWELVE PERFECTLY GOOD
PENCILS, BUT I'VE WORN
OUT ALL THE ERASERS...

THAT SHOULD TELL
YOU SOMETHING, SIR!

EVEN MY PENCILS
CRITICIZE ME

Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



FORECAST FOR MONDAY, DEC. 6, 1982

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Upsets can take place if you let your guard down. Confer with associates on a plan whereby you can gain more productivity in the days ahead. Don't neglect important duties.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be sensible in the handling of any problems connected with property. Be sure to make right decisions for the future.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get right down to routine duties early in the day and do them well. Strive to get ahead in your line of endeavor.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Use tact when dealing with an outsider. Take care of home affairs before engaging in career activities.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Take care of an important business matter early in the day for best results. Show others you have wisdom.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Study your financial situation before entering a business agreement. The evening is ideal for the type of entertainment you enjoy.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Morning is best for taking care of personal matters, but don't neglect important business affairs. Be logical.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Take time early in the day for working out a new plan of action that will give you greater abundance in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't make any radical changes where finances are concerned at this time. Take steps to improve your environment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be precise in handling career affairs and don't jeopardize your credit in any way. Strive for happiness.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) This is a good day to expand in your business activities. A new contact could prove very helpful to you now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be sure you don't make any promises that you won't be able to keep. Study all aspects of a new project you have in mind.

WORLD

Reagan's C. American tour outrages critics

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (R) — President Reagan left Central America Saturday night after a 24-hour visit which is virtually certain to fuel fresh controversy over U.S. policy on the turbulent region.

Mr. Reagan had talks with the presidents of four conservative Central American republics — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala — on the final leg of a tour which began in Brazil and ended in San Pedro Sula, Honduras' second largest city.

While the stated aim of the tour was to promote democracy, there had been suggestions throughout the region that Mr. Reagan's chief aim was to rally conservative forces against left-wing Nicaragua even if that meant glossing over violations of human rights.

The security forces in both El Salvador and Guatemala have been accused of large-scale abuses of human rights, ranging from massacres of civilians in Guatemala to torture, disappearances and political murders in El Salvador.

But after talks with Guatemalan strongman, Gen. Efraim Rios Montt, in San Pedro Sula, President Reagan praised the military government's "progressive effi-

orts" and pledged U.S. support for dealing with Guatemala's problems.

Human rights organisations have accused Guatemala's army and security forces of massacring more than 2,600 peasants since launching an anti-guerrilla offensive after the military coup which brought Gen. Rios Montt to power last March.

There has also been sharp criticism of Guatemala in the U.S. Congress.

After meeting El Salvador's President Alvaro Magana in the Costa Rican capital of San Jose, Mr. Reagan declared that El Salvador was making "great progress against great odds" in promoting reforms and curbing human rights abuses.

His statement came five weeks after his ambassador in San Salvador, Deane Hinton, painted a grim picture of the human rights situation in a speech in which he threatened that U.S. aid might be cut off.

"Worst fears come true."

"Critics of the Reagan administration, both here and in the United States, are going to have a field day," said an Honduran newspaper editor. His remarks on Salvador and Guatemala confirmed their worst suspicions."



Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, left, and President Ronald Reagan embrace after signing

an extradition treaty between the two countries Saturday in San Jose. (A.P. wirephoto)

of human rights.

Gen. Rios Montt, saying that left-wing insurgents in Guatemala must be crushed once and for all, imposed a state of siege on his country last July and suspended all political activity. The state of siege, originally meant for 30 days, has been extended ever since.

But he said in a press statement

conference later that elections would probably be held at the end of next year.

Mr. Reagan told reporters at San Pedro Sula, Honduras, that he was convinced that Gen. Rios Montt was moving to restore democratic rule.

"Given a bad deal"

Mr. Reagan said during his return to Washington: "I very frankly think that they've been getting a bad deal. You know, he was elected president in 1974. He was never allowed to take office. So, when this particular coup came, the officers who conducted the coup gave him the office he'd been

given a bad rap."

Asked if he would meet a request for helicopters and aircraft spare parts, Mr. Reagan said his decision would depend on the conclusion he reached on the information that Gen. Rios Montt gave him in Honduras.

He then added: "Yes, I would think so."

Gen. Rios Montt told at a news

Shultz to test strained ties with W. Europe

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, leaving Washington Monday on his first mission outside the Western hemisphere since taking office in July, will seek stronger allied ties during a seven-nation tour of Western Europe.

His trip follows major changes last month in the Soviet leadership and comes at a time of sharp disagreements on trade issues that have caused strains between the U.S. and its allies.

The tour formally begins in Bonn on Tuesday and his itinerary then takes him to Brussels, where NATO foreign ministers are due to meet on Thursday and Friday. The Hague, Rome, Paris, Madrid and London. He is expected home on Dec. 19.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K5 ♦A105 ♦Q642 ♦Q983

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♦ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 ♦ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A. — You fulfilled your obligation with your first response. Now you should retire gracefully from the auction. There is no reason why you should give a false preference to two spades — hearts should be as good a contract, or better, than spades. Pass.

Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦A7 ♦K92 ♦AK1073

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass 1 ♦

1 ♦ 2 ♦ 2 ♦ 2 ♦ ?

What do you bid now?

A. — Don't give up on slam too quickly. Even though partner couldn't open the bidding, he did come in freely at the two-level. Almost any hand where he has a heart control could easily produce a slam. Start your probe with a cue-bid of three spades. When you later bid five diamonds, partner should get the message of what you need for slam.

Q.3 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦Q105 ♦AQ6 ♦A873 ♦K97

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

Pass Pass 1 ♦ Pass

1 ♦ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 ♦ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A. — Don't hit the panic button just because you have a three-card club suit. Partner has the opportunity to introduce a major suit over the double of one club, but did not do so. Therefore, you can't expect to have a better fit than you do in clubs. Since partner probably has five clubs for his raise and your values are prime, you should expect to make two clubs even against a trump stack.

Q.4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦AQ95 ♦KQJ82 ♦A763

The bidding has proceeded:

U.S. Jews will become alienated from Israel'

NEW YORK (R) — Former Argentine newspaper publisher Jacobo Timerman, a severe critic of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, has said Jews in the United States will become increasingly alienated from Israel.

Mr. Timerman said in an interview with an American television network recorded in Tel Aviv about 10 days ago that he would result from growing awareness by American Jews of contradictions between their attitudes and those of Israelis.

"More and more, the Jews in the diaspora will discover that they have democratic feelings, that they approve civil liberties in the diaspora, that they are against the war in the diaspora," he said in the interview to be broadcast Sunday.

"But here they have to change and be for military solutions, for intolerance against civil liberties, against the rights of Palestinians," he added, according to a transcript released in advance.

"At some point they are going to discover these contradictions and... they are going to choose the United States, not Israel because they have a democratic tradition," he said.

Mr. Timerman, a severe critic of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, has said Jews in the United States will become increasingly alienated from Israel.

In his recently published book "The Longest War" Mr. Timerman disputed Prime Minister Menachem Begin's contention that Israeli actions in Lebanon were justified because Palestinian commandos used that country as a base of operations for attacks on Israel.

In his television interview he drew parallels between treatment of Jews in Argentine prisons and treatment of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Asked if he were not judging Israelis by higher standards than other peoples he replied: "I don't care if the Argentines are worse. I am going to fight in this country to be better."

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